



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
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First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

April 25, 2011

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the typed name.

## **TSUNAMI AWARENESS OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN (ITEM 34-A, AGENDA OF MARCH 22, 2011)**

On March 22, 2011, on motion of Supervisors Knabe and Yaroslavsky, the Board instructed the Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to report back on an outreach and education campaign that will bring awareness of the County's tsunami emergency plans to local residents so they are prepared in the event of a tsunami. Provided herein are details of actions that are underway and descriptions of actions or programs under development. Also provided for your convenience is a sequence of activities for a tsunami event.

### **Public Service Announcements and Public Broadcasts**

- A Public Service Announcement (PSA) campaign has been developed to promote our Emergency Survival Program (ESP) website for use by local broadcasters featuring our Tsunami Preparedness Bulletin. These PSAs will air at the discretion of local broadcasters starting May 1, 2011. Efforts will be made to allow for continued broadcasts on a quarterly basis.
- A "Tsunami Preparedness Awareness" video for children and "Tsunami Awareness" interviews will be broadcasted on the "LA County Channel" (County Channel) and in coordination with Time Warner on local cable channels. The tsunami interviews began on April 4, 2011, and continued through April 11, 2011. Tsunami awareness videos will begin airing on local cable channels starting on May 1, 2011. In coordination with Time Warner, plans are being coordinated to air the videos on a continuous cycle.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

***Please Conserve Paper – This Document and Copies are Two-Sided  
Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only***

- Tsunami information and Countywide preparedness information have been provided to the County Public Information Officers. The PIOs of each County department will make the material readily available to their employees and to the public at County community access facilities. Departments will also either post information on their respective websites or direct website users to the ESP website for information.
- Video Disaster Preparedness “short film” programs will be broadcasted on public Transit TV and the County Channel. These short film programs are scheduled to begin on May 1, 2011, and be aired on a continuous cycle.

Disaster Preparedness      [http://public.transit-tv.com/files/OEM\\_DisasterPrep.wmv](http://public.transit-tv.com/files/OEM_DisasterPrep.wmv)

Earthquake      [http://public.transit-tv.com/files/OEM\\_Earthquake.wmv](http://public.transit-tv.com/files/OEM_Earthquake.wmv)

Pet Preparedness      [http://public.transit-tv.com/files/OEM\\_Pets.wmv](http://public.transit-tv.com/files/OEM_Pets.wmv)

Fire Safety      [http://public.transit-tv.com/files/OEM\\_Fire.wmv](http://public.transit-tv.com/files/OEM_Fire.wmv)

Storm Channels  
(English)      [http://public.transit-tv.com/files/ADV\\_OEM\\_Floods.mov.wmv](http://public.transit-tv.com/files/ADV_OEM_Floods.mov.wmv)

Storm Channels  
(Spanish)      [http://public.transit-tv.com/files/ADV\\_OEM\\_Floods\\_SP.mov.wmv](http://public.transit-tv.com/files/ADV_OEM_Floods_SP.mov.wmv)

### **Information Brochures**

OEM will distribute an information brochure (How to Survive a Tsunami) produced by the California Emergency Management Agency to the County 211 Information Center, County Public Library, and local and community-based agencies. Twenty-five thousand brochures were made available for distribution on April 15, 2011.

### **Website Links**

Tsunami informational website links have been established with local, State, and Federal disaster preparedness partners for the Board of Supervisors’ website, the main Los Angeles County website, and the ESP website.

The ESP Coordinating Council (Council), in conjunction with OEM, is in the process of developing a new interactive website that will incorporate social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, and feature information on various threats and hazards that face Los Angeles County, including tsunamis.

## **Operational Area Emergency Response Plan – Tsunami Annex**

Adopted in 2006, the Tsunami Annex (Annex) is a planning-guidance document that describes the threat presented by a tsunami and a description of the Federal and State Government alert procedures to notify the public of critical information. The Annex also identifies the alert and warning procedures of the operational area designated to the Sheriff's Department and other County departments.

Further, the Annex provides for the identification of various agencies involved with the activities undertaken to respond to the tsunami. It should be noted that individual agencies and incorporated cities are responsible for the development of their plans to support the Annex. OEM leads the tsunami task force which updates the Annex to ensure follow up and compliance by cities and agencies who handle their respective responsibilities.

Accordingly, the forums and methods used to facilitate a comprehensive outreach program will be undertaken in collaboration with the associations, committees, and partnerships noted below. OEM and its various County partners will focus on extensive evaluation of existing plans to assess best practices and emphasize a lessons-learned strategy. Efforts will focus on the development of a uniformed approach to mitigate the impact of tsunamis from a local, regional, and statewide perspective to account for all possible contingencies in the event a tsunami occurs in Los Angeles County, its coastal cities, or the region. The first planning meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2011, and the revision process requires approximately six months. The Annex revision will be completed by December 1, 2011, within the required five-year plan update period.

## **Disaster Management Area Coordinators**

Representing the 88 cities of Los Angeles County, OEM remains actively engaged with the eight Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMAC), collectively and individually, regarding the preparedness, mitigation, and planning activities related to a destructive tsunami affecting the Los Angeles Operation Area. The DMACs, through their participation on the Operational Area Advisory Board, were actively involved in the development, review, and approval of the original Annex adopted in 2006. OEM, together with the DMACs, regularly evaluate the components of the Annex for applicable use to determine future outcomes and develop steps necessary to mitigate and lessen the impact of a tsunami on the affected Los Angeles County cities and unincorporated areas. Since the adoption of the Annex, the DMACs have provided ongoing support to OEM in their tsunami preparedness efforts. The DMACs' support was instrumental in OEM obtaining Homeland Security Grant Funds to develop and distribute tsunami preparedness/awareness materials, as well as develop and

disseminate tsunami alert and warning material. The alert and warning material have been strategically placed in coastal communities throughout the County after consultation with the DMACs, the affected city jurisdictions, and various County departments (Sheriff, Fire, Public Works, Beaches and Harbor, and Social Services). Tsunami preparedness material is constantly updated by OEM and its partners to reflect changes and improve upon conditions learned from tsunami events that occur worldwide.

### **Emergency Survival Program Coordinating Council**

OEM has provided leadership to the Council since its establishment in 1989. The Council is the coordinating body for ESP's all hazards public education campaign. Their primary duties are to assist in the development of campaign materials in coordination with the ESP campaign region wide. Due to the success of the ESP, the scope has widened to a worldwide distribution and use.

Representatives on the Council consist of emergency managers from the counties of Contra Costa, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Management, Southern California Edison, the Southern California Earthquake Center, the American Red Cross, and various cities are also represented. In recent years, members of the media, non-profits and CBOs have joined the council from around the State to support the growth and value of this important program to the public.

The Council last met in November 2011 and generally meets every six months. However, there are five committees within the Council: Marketing, Communications, Education and Outreach, Networking, and Research and Update, which meet every other month or as needed.

OEM will continue its leadership role with the ESP and is currently planning community expos within the five Los Angeles County supervisorial districts to inform the community of the necessities of disaster preparedness, to include tsunamis.

### **Los Angeles Critical Incident Planning and Training Alliance (Operational Area Alliance)**

The Operational Area Alliance (Alliance) is jointly led by OEM and Los Angeles City's Emergency Management Department. Funded by the Urban Area Security Initiative and Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Programs, Alliance is a multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary partnership consisting of law enforcement, fire, emergency management, parks and recreation, and health agencies within the Los Angeles

Operational Area (LAOA). The purpose of the Alliance is to facilitate strategic regional catastrophic disaster planning among all disciplines and jurisdictions within the LAOA. Alliance tsunami-planning efforts are contained and articulated in its grant mandated regional approach cited below.

The Alliance, to date, has developed a Mass Evacuation Guide and corresponding template, a Mass Care and Shelter Guide and corresponding template, and is in the process of developing a Mass Reception and Mass Recovery Guide also with corresponding templates. These guides were produced with an all-hazards approach that will allow for jurisdictions in the LAOA to utilize for local planning efforts while at the same time ensuring a consistency throughout the region across planning documents. Each plan can be adopted and utilized for scenario-based planning, including but not limited to tsunami initiatives.

In order to accomplish a truly regional approach to planning, OEM and the Southern region counties have adopted a tool provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, called the Virtual Joint Planning Office (VJPO). VJPO provides for the centralization of calendaring and document management, along with real-time collaboration technology including instant messaging, audio/video conferencing, and webinar capabilities saving valuable time and alleviating the unnecessary costs associated with travel and time spent by stakeholders who are so geographically dispersed throughout LAOA and the region.

Efforts are underway to use the VJPO to coordinate strategies and information sharing/exchange between the cities, counties, and representatives from numerous other jurisdictions and departments throughout the region, relative to the many facets of tsunami preparedness and mitigation.

### **California Tsunami Steering Committee**

The California Tsunami Steering Committee (Committee) is comprised of all California Coastal Operational Areas. Upcoming activities include reports from coastal communities most impacted by the March 11, 2011, tsunami (Crescent City, Santa Cruz, and surrounding areas). A meeting is scheduled for mid-June to discuss the tsunami and additional opportunities for shared community outreach and public information activities. Tsunami public information materials from the National Weather Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Geological Survey, and the California Emergency Management Agency are shared with all the Committee partners on a local, regional, and statewide level. We are also developing, with the Committee members, a plan for sharing of local, State, and Federal agencies website information regarding tsunami preparedness for establishing crossover website links between the varied jurisdictions. Federal and State partners will convene and brief the

Each Supervisor  
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coastal operational area, to include OEM, at a meeting scheduled for June 8, 2011, to discuss crossover website links and inter-agency cooperation on the Federal, State, and local level.

### **California Operational Area Coalition**

The California Operational Area Coalition (Coalition) is comprised of all the operational areas (counties) in the State. This Coalition facilitates the exchange of information regarding all areas of disaster preparedness, emergency planning, homeland security, and inter-agency coordination. OEM has a robust and active role in the Coalition and continually networks and strategizes with Coalition partners to coordinate community outreach/awareness and public information efforts undertaken throughout the State. Information obtained from these efforts will be included in our website emergency preparedness links and public information publications. Existing activities include development of a proactive tsunami awareness program relative to all counties. The goal is to have a cohesive, comprehensive plan and to ensure awareness and preparedness messaging and actions are coordinated, consistent, and maintained.

### **Emergency Siren Warning System**

OEM is preparing a separate report in response to the March 29, 2011, motion on the advisability and feasibility of developing a Tsunami Emergency Siren Warning System.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me or a member of your staff may contact Deputy Chief Executive Officer Jacqueline A. White, Public Safety, at (213) 893-2374 or Senior Manager John Fernandes, OEM, at (323) 980-2261.

WTF:JAW:JF  
JT:llm

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Sheriff

## **SEQUENCE OF ACTIVITIES FOR A TSUNAMI EVENT**

**Alert Phase:** Potential tsunamis are monitored by the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (WC/ATWC) in Palmer, Alaska. The State Office of Emergency Services Warning Center receives the information via the National Warning System. OES passes all information from the WC/ATWC directly to the local operational areas via the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, California Warning System, California Integrated Seismic Network, and Emergency Digital Information System. The Operational Area, through the Sheriff's Department, disseminates the information to the local jurisdictions and special districts within the area.

The Sheriff's Department will, upon receipt of the tsunami alert, immediately notify the Operational Area local police dispatch centers as well as the Fire Department Emergency Command and Control Center (ECC). These tsunami alerts will be in the form of telephone calls from the Sheriff's Communication Center to the police dispatch centers and ECC.

A redundant alert message, using e-mail and fax, will also be transmitted to the police dispatch centers and the ECC. The County Emergency Operations Center's staff will make several immediate decisions depending on the content of the warning. If the first wave is expected to reach the coast with enough time for evacuation, the decision to make a complete, immediate evacuation may be necessary. However, if the wave is expected in 3-6 hours, a phased evacuation is possible.

The decision to close beaches and remove emergency equipment and personnel from coastal businesses may be questioned if the tsunami does not occur. In order to reduce individual liability, the County may elect to declare a local emergency.

There are two types of tsunami alert notifications:

**Tsunami Warning** - This alert is given to local governments within an expected impact area after a tsunami triggering event has occurred. The expectation is that local governments in the impact areas will prepare for flooding and implement their tsunami/evacuation plan.

**Tsunami Watch** - This alert is issued to local jurisdictions outside of the "warning" area. These areas are at least three hours outside of the expected tsunami impact area. However, they should monitor the event. The National Weather Service will upgrade this alert as needed.

A third level "Advisory" is not used in the alert sequence because it is only a possibility of a limited event below the Watch and Warning level.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TSUNAMIS

- A tsunami is a series of waves or surges most commonly caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor.
- An unusual lowering of ocean water, exposing the sea floor, is a warning of a tsunami or other large wave. This "draw back" means the water will surge back strongly.
- Beaches, lagoons, bays, estuaries, tidal flats and river mouths are the most dangerous places to be. It's rare for a tsunami to penetrate more than a mile inland.
- Tsunami waves are unlike normal coastal waves. Tsunamis are more like a river in flood or a sloping mountain of water and filled with debris.
- Tsunamis cannot be surfed. They have no face for a surfboard to dig into and are usually filled with debris.
- Large tsunamis may reach heights of twenty to fifty feet along the coast and even higher in a few locales. The first tsunami surge is not the highest and the largest surge may occur hours after the first wave. It is not possible to predict how many surges or how much time will elapse between waves for a particular tsunami.
- The entire California Coast is vulnerable to tsunamis. The Crescent City Harbor on California's North Coast suffered significant tsunami damage as recently as 2006. A dozen people were killed in California following the 1964 Alaska earthquake.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

About tsunamis: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/zoonotic/diseases/tsunami/>

Identifying natural hazards in your state: [www.mhazards.calstate.edu/](http://www.mhazards.calstate.edu/)

Preparing for earthquakes and tsunamis: [www.earthquakecountry.org](http://www.earthquakecountry.org)

The California Geological Survey: [www.cgs.ca.gov/](http://www.cgs.ca.gov/)  
Or contact your county office for emergency services.

Prepared by: California Emergency Management Agency Earthquake and Tsunami Program  
3650 Schiever Avenue, Malibu, CA 90263 (714) 845-5510  
Concept and partial text from the Redwood Coast Tsunami Work Group.

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## 1. PROTECT yourself during the earthquake



- If indoors, DROP under a sturdy table or object. COVER your head and neck and HOLD ON.
- If outdoors, move to a clear area if you can safely do so - away from trees, beach cliffs, signs and other hazards - and drop\* to the ground.
- \* If you have mobility impairments that prevent you from getting up on your own, do not drop to the ground but do cover your head and neck and hold on.

## 2. MOVE to High Ground



- As soon as it is safe to move, go to higher ground. DO NOT WAIT for an official tsunami warning.

- Avoid downed power lines and weakened overpasses.

- If you are outside of a tsunami hazard zone, stay where you are.

## 3. STAY There



- Remain on high ground. Waves from a tsunami may arrive for eight hours or longer.

- Return to the coast only when officials have announced that it is safe to do so.

# How to Survive a Tsunami

- Protect yourself during the earthquake
- Move to high ground or inland as soon as you can
- Stay there

Prepared by:



**Cal EMA**  
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT AGENCY

[www.calempa.ca.gov](http://www.calempa.ca.gov)



## TWO WAYS TO FIND OUT IF A TSUNAMI MAY BE COMING

### 1. NATURAL WARNING

Strong ground shaking could occur on, near, or the water receding unusually far exposing the sea floor are all nature's warnings that a tsunami may be coming. If you observe any of these warning signs, immediately go to higher ground or inland. A tsunami may arrive within minutes and may last for eight hours or longer. Stay away from coastal areas until officials announce that it is safe to return.



### 2. OFFICIAL WARNING

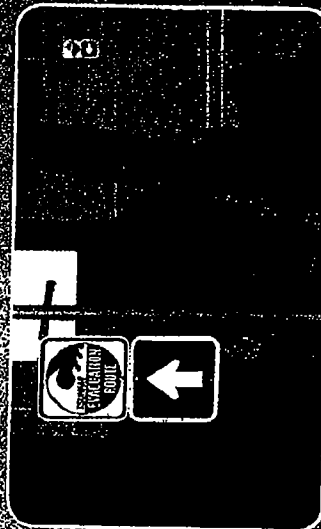
You may hear that a tsunami warning has been issued. Tsunami warnings might come via radio, television, telephone, text message, door-to-door contact by emergency responders, NOAA weather radios, or in some cases by outdoor sirens. Move away from the beach and seek more information on local radio or television stations. Follow the directions of emergency personnel who may require you to evacuate beaches and low-lying coastal areas. Use your phone only for life-threatening emergencies.



## WHEN SHOULD I EVACUATE?

Evacuation should not be automatic. Before evacuating you should determine if you are in a hazard zone and consider possible hazards that may exist along your evacuation route.

- Know if you live, work, or play in a tsunami hazard zone.
- **COUNT** how long the earthquake lasts. If you feel more than 20 seconds of very strong ground shaking and are in a tsunami hazard zone, evacuate as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If you are on the beach or in a harbor and feel an earthquake—no matter how small—immediately move inland or to high ground.
- **GO ON FOOT.** Roads and bridges may be damaged.
- Avoid downed power lines.
- If evacuation is impossible, go to the third or fourth floor of a sturdy building or climb a tree. This field only be used as a last resort.
- If you hear that a tsunami warning has been issued, do not feel an earthquake. Get better information from the radio, television, or other means of communication. Follow the instructions of emergency responders.
- If you are outdoors that is, after the earthquake, do not return to the beach or low-lying coastal areas.



## WHERE SHOULD I GO?

Evacuation routes should be planned in advance. Know the evacuation route from your home, work, or school. Know the location of high ground or inland areas. Know the location of emergency shelters.

EMERGENCY SURVIVAL PROGRAM  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# ESP TSUNAMIS



## You can't surf these waves!

You may not live near the coast, but you may visit beaches and coastal cities. Wherever you live, work or play, use the information on the reverse side of this ESP information sheet to learn more about the tsunami threat and what to do if a tsunami occurs or if a tsunami watch or warning is issued.

Contrary to popular belief, a tsunami isn't one giant wave. It is a series of waves most commonly generated by great earthquakes below the ocean floor. Underwater landslides also can cause tsunamis.

Tsunamis can travel at speeds up to 500 miles per hour in the open sea and reach heights of up to 100 feet in shallow coastal waters. Usually, however, tsunamis that reach California average 10 feet in height and peak in the 20-40 foot range.

The first tsunami wave is seldom the highest or the last. Waves will continue to arrive for several hours, spaced minutes to hours apart. In fact, hundreds and perhaps thousands of people in the affected south Asian nations died in the catastrophic 2004 tsunami when they went to the ocean to see the impacts of the first waves and were swept to their deaths when subsequent waves struck.

The time it takes for tsunami waves to reach the coast depends on where the earthquake or underwater landslide occurs. A tsunami caused by an earthquake a few miles off the coast is called a "locally generated" tsunami. It will arrive within minutes of the quake. Residents of coastal communities probably will feel such an earthquake. The earthquake may be the only warning of an approaching tsunami so it is important to respond quickly.



# TSUNAMIS

[www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org)

## The Threat in California

Tsunamis caused by large earthquakes centered near Alaska and other distant parts of the Pacific Ocean are called "distant source" tsunamis. The first waves from these events take several hours to reach the California coastline. The West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center will issue a Tsunami Warning or Tsunami Watch if an Alaskan or Pacific tsunami threatens California.

More than a dozen tsunamis with waves three feet high or more have struck California since 1812. Six caused damage. The tsunami generated by the 1964 Alaska earthquake killed a dozen Crescent City residents and caused more than \$34 million in damage. Three tsunamis flooded Santa Barbara during the 1800's; a tsunami resulting from a Chilean earthquake damaged a pier in San Diego Harbor in 1960; and one-foot waves resulted from the 1992 Cape Mendocino earthquake were detected near Santa Barbara.

Historically, while tsunamis have caused greater casualties and damage in northern California, and while the threat of local and distant tsunamis is greater on the north coast, southern California also has significant risk because of its large coastal population.

Most common mention of tsunamis in California is when a tsunami advisory is given.

### What is a tsunami advisory?

- ☐ A tsunami advisory indicates a tsunami which may produce strong currents and is dangerous to those in or very near the water is expected.
- ☐ Large inundations are not expected in areas under advisory status.
- ☐ Advisories will be cancelled, extended, or upgraded to a warning depending on the event severity.
- ☐ Advisories are issued when the expected tsunami amplitude is in the range of 0.3 to 1 meter.

*\*Visit the West Coast Tsunami Center at <http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/>*

## Before the Next Tsunami or Tsunami Warning

- ☐ Determine the elevation of your home and how far it is from the coast. Know whether you live in a tsunami danger zone.
- ☐ If you live within a couple of miles of the coast, identify a location to go if a tsunami strikes. The location should be at least two miles inland or 100 feet above sea level.
- ☐ Learn the signs of an approaching tsunami. If the tide rises or recedes rapidly, move immediately inland to higher ground.
- ☐ Ask local emergency officials or your planning department what areas are susceptible to the flooding from a tsunami.
- ☐ Locate refuge areas and learn evacuation routes that are safe.
- ☐ Develop or update your family's emergency plan.

- ☐ Assemble an emergency supply kit. If you haven't done so, include a portable radio.
- ☐ Identify a friend or relative living in another state as your family point of contact.
- ☐ Learn first aid.
- ☐ Teach family members how and when to turn off the utilities.
- ☐ Join a Community Emergency Response Team.

## During and After the Tsunami or Tsunami Watch

- ☐ If you feel an earthquake, **Drop! Cover! Hold On!** until the shaking stops. Estimate how long the shaking lasted. If severe shaking lasted 20 seconds or more, immediately evacuate to high ground as a tsunami might have been generated by the earthquake.
- ☐ Move inland two miles or to land that is at least 100 feet above sea level immediately. Don't wait for officials to issue a warning. Walk quickly, rather than drive, to avoid traffic, debris and other hazards.
- ☐ Stay away from coastal or low-lying areas until an "all clear" notice has been issued by local emergency officials. Waves might continue to arrive for several hours.
- ☐ Use common sense. Do not go to the coast to see a tsunami. Tsunamis are not like regular waves. They are much faster, higher and are filled with debris.
- ☐ Obey evacuation notices. Listen to the radio or watch television for emergency information and instructions from local officials about re-entry.
- ☐ Contact your local office of emergency services for more information about preparing for tsunamis.

*Extracted and adapted from "Tsunami! How to Survive This Hazard on California's North Coast," Humboldt Earthquake Education Center, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA; Other sources included the FEMA publication "Are You Ready? Your guide to disaster preparedness," and from information provided by the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), Earthquake and Tsunami Program and NOAA's National Weather Service West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center.*

This project was supported by FY07 UASI funding awarded by the California Emergency Management Agency, through FEMA/DHHS.



This information sheet is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase home, neighborhood, business and school emergency preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and representatives from Contra Costa, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and Ventura counties, Southern California Edison, the Southern California Earthquake Center and the American Red Cross assist in the development of campaign materials and coordination of the campaign.

Rev: 0410

### **Emergency Alert System (EAS)**

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is designed to provide information to the media in order for them to disseminate emergency public information (early warning, notification, alert, etc.) and if needed would enable the President, Federal, State and local governments to communicate with the public through commercial broadcast stations.

#### **Emergency Alerts Section at [www.lacounty.gov](http://www.lacounty.gov)**

County of Los Angeles residents and businesses can obtain emergency or disaster related information on the County's web portal system in the Emergency Alerts section located at the top of the [lacounty.gov](http://lacounty.gov) website.

When activated during an emergency or disaster, the Emergency Alerts section will provide updated information which might include the following:

- Dates and Times
- Locations of emergency or disaster sites or shelters (people and animal) Precautionary or evacuation advisories or orders
- Related communications including press releases, fact sheets and emergency preparedness information

#### **Tsunami Evacuation Route Signs in unincorporated Marina del Rey**

In an ongoing effort to provide County of Los Angeles residents with vital tsunami safety information, the Office of Emergency Management and Department of Public Works have posted tsunami evacuation route signs throughout the unincorporated areas of Marina del Rey. In the event of a Tsunami Warning, residents and visitors will be able to follow these posted signs along a number of optimum evacuation routes to safety.

### **COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

#### **Coordinated Agency Recovery Effort (CARE)**

Created as a result of a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich after the 2009 Station Fire, the largest recorded wildfire in the County of Los Angeles history, the Department of Public Works launched the Coordinated Agency Recovery Effort (CARE) program. CARE is comprised of County departments that include Fire, Sheriff, and Office of Emergency Management to coordinate emergency response planning and public information in the event of mud and debris flow incidents in Los Angeles County.

For more information, please go to <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/care/>.

- Other methods of alert and warning such as Emergency Alert System and Alert LA County dial notification system, and warnings provided by law enforcement, fire, and lifeguard personnel are sufficient for our early warning needs.
- Tsunami Warning Sirens require deployment of multiple siren locations to cover designated warning areas.
- Tsunami Warning Sirens can be masked by modern portable wireless devices such as iPods, headphones, and automobile sound systems.
- Tsunami Warning Sirens notification range is limited by manmade and natural architectural terrain features, requiring additional siren placement, to provide required alert coverage.
- Tsunami Warning Sirens cost between \$5,000-\$50,000 per siren location. There are ongoing maintenance requirements which add annual operational costs to the initial procurement.

#### **TSUNAMI EVACUATION ROUTE SIGN PROJECT (COMPLETED)** **Available In Unincorporated Marina del Rey**

In an ongoing effort to provide the Los Angeles County area residents with vital tsunami safety information, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management and Department of Public Works have positioned tsunami evacuation route signs throughout the unincorporated areas of Marina del Rey.

In the event of a Tsunami Warning, residents and visitors will be able to follow these posted signs along a number of optimum evacuation routes to safety.

Marina del Rey is a highly populated County area that could be impacted by a tsunami. Accordingly, signs were placed that border the predicted tsunami inundation zones where the water would flow.

The following are some highlights of the Tsunami Evacuation Route Sign project

- Funded by the State Homeland Security Grant Program.
- Funds for the Tsunami Evacuation Route Signs was from a one-time grant.

- Tsunami Evacuation Route sign locations designate the tsunami inundation area as identified in maps provided by the California Emergency Management Agency.
- Six cities have established their signage program based upon the same map.
- All coastal cities are responsible for their own tsunami response plans which includes placement of signs.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCE INFORMATION**

The following is a list of Office of Emergency Management emergency preparedness materials that are available at <http://lacounty.gov> and <http://www.espfocus.org>:

- Emergency Survival Guide (ESG)
- Emergency Survival Program (ESP)
- Emergency Preparedness Checklists "10 Essential Items"
- Specific Needs Awareness Planning (SNAP)
- Alert LA County

The following is a list of additional resource website addresses:

- <http://lacounty.gov>
- <http://lacoa.org>
- <http://snap.lacounty.gov>
- <http://www.espfocus.org>
- [www.calema.ca.gov](http://www.calema.ca.gov)
- West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center  
<http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov>

## **TALKING POINTS**

### **IS L.A. COUNTY PREPARED FOR DISASTERS?**

The following programs are available to County of Los Angeles residents and businesses:

#### **Emergency Survival Guide**

In coordination with the Board of Supervisors, the Office of Emergency Management has prepared a comprehensive guide to emergency preparedness intended to help the residents of the County of Los Angeles to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

The Emergency Survival Guide features helpful tips and information for residents to prepare for fires, floods, earthquakes, pandemic flu, terrorism, extreme weather, and tsunamis.

The Emergency Survival Guide is available at <http://lacounty.gov>.

#### **Emergency Survival Program (ESP)**

The Emergency Survival Program (ESP) is designed to help the public prepare for earthquakes and other emergencies by encouraging them to take a different preparedness step each month of the year.

We have a variety of public information materials to make it easy for families to prepare for emergencies. Some of these include our ESP Family Steps to Survival guide, ESP Activity Book for Kids, Neighborhood Preparedness plan, etc.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of the wealth of information that is provided by ESP.

Log on to our ESP website at [www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org) to get the free ESP information.

#### **Emergency Preparedness Checklists "10 Essential Items"**

To prepare County residents to prepare for and survive a major earthquake, tsunami, fire, flood, act of terrorism and/or other disasters, the County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management has developed through its Emergency Survival Program an emergency preparedness checklist of "10 Essential Items."

For more information, please access [www.espfocus.org](http://www.espfocus.org).

## **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITY, ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS**

### **Specific Needs Awareness Planning (SNAP)**

To better prepare the County of Los Angeles residents for natural and man-made disasters who have access and functional needs including those relating to physical, medical, sensory, cognitive or age-related, the County has made available a voluntary disaster registry, Specific Needs Awareness Planning (SNAP).

The SNAP registry is an Internet-based system that allows residents to provide information, which is kept confidential, to public safety officials about their access or functional needs. SNAP does not guarantee priority response to the registrants, but it assists emergency response officials in planning and responding to the requirements of people with access and functional needs during a disaster by integrating database and mapping technology together.

To register for SNAP, please go to <http://snap.lacounty.gov> and click on "Register Now." Registrations can be made on an individual basis or as a group. Those individuals who do not have access to the Internet or may require additional assistance can ask a family member, friend or caregiver to register for them.

## **EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND EVACUATION ROUTE SIGNAGE**

### **Alert LA County**

County of Los Angeles residents and businesses can voluntarily register their land line telephone numbers, mobile telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses with Alert LA County.

The County's mass notification system will contact residents and businesses only if they are in an impacted area due to an emergency or disaster.

Alert LA County is a component of the overall emergency notification plan and should not be seen as the only means of emergency notification. Areas with existing notifications systems may continue to use their own system independent of the Alert LA County.

To register online for Alert LA County, please go to <http://www.lacounty.gov>.



## **EXERCISES AND TRAININGS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC**

### **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department (LACoFD) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program serves to educate citizens about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their areas and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

For more information, please go to <http://fire.lacounty.gov>.

### **The Great California ShakeOut**

To better prepare County of Los Angeles residents in how to protect themselves and their loved ones during an earthquake, the Office of Emergency Management in collaboration with Federal, State, and local government agencies, and non-profit organizations host annually The Great California ShakeOut, the largest earthquake preparedness drill in the United States.

For the past three years, more than 12 million County residents have registered and participated in The Great California ShakeOut. This year's ShakeOut is scheduled on October 20, 2011 and will take place at 10:20 a.m.

Join the already two million County of Los Angeles residents who have registered for the 2011 The Great California ShakeOut. To register online, please access [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org).

## **WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY OR DISASTER**

### **211 LA County**

Residents and business owners, including persons with disability, access and functional needs may call 211 LA County for emergency preparedness information, other referral services, and updated information during an emergency or disaster. The toll free 211 number is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Hearing impaired residents may also call (800) 660-4026. 211 LA County can also be accessed at <http://www.211la.org>.

## **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WEBSITE ADDRESSES**

The following is a list of websites where the Office of Emergency Management materials and information are available:

- <http://lacounty.gov>
- <http://lacoa.org>
- <http://snap.lacounty.gov>
- <http://www.espfocus.org>